

Brofile: Ace (Don) Henderson – Class of 56

Written by Mark "Psycho" Wild '57

Ace! One of the originals and over a 1/2 Century later, still an active Turtle. The "Quintessential Turtle!"

At Carthage he was everywhere, knew everybody, a nice guy, a leader -- AND -- he had a yellow convertible -- so of course he became our 1st President. I smile when I remember Ace's years at Carthage -- He was part of it all -- tipping a few brews at Carthage Lake, Chet's and wherever and whenever Turtles met; he was part of Turtles dressed in pork-pie hats and topcoats, entertaining at Convocation, basketball & football games; Intramural football; shaking up opponents at away games; skits at various events - i.e., Polio Drive & Kampus Kapers; Anna Trips; and close friend of Turtle Advisor Eric Olson; and so much more -- Ace was there.

And he's still there working with the TEXAA guys who he's proud of and they proud of him. In 1956 he graduated and closed his always open bedroom window in the dorm -- open no matter how cold and freezing it was outside, because he was from "Minnesota!" -- and moved back to work in real estate investments, apartments & hotels, and later starting an income tax preparation business. Also in 1956 he married Nancy Harmon and they proudly had 5 kids (one died in 1962) Moved to Edina, MN in 1968. They divorced in 1981.

Judy Kovarik became his "current" wife (Ace's endearing term) in 1982, who has 3 children. Together they've been working, travelling and enjoying each other for almost 30 years. They've visited their kids and nine grandkids in VA, GA, SD CA, WA. & NY. They've been to Norway, Sweden, England, France, Germany, Switzerland & the Czech Republic. "Theme trips" are their thing, like the Lewis & Clark Trail, Route 66, and "Sponge" trips staying with Turtles throughout the United States. And in between Ace squeezed in a Quintuple Bypass in 2004 -- a Heart Survivor!

If you're ever in Edina, MN, make a "Sponge Stop" and see Ace & Judy -- and (to use Ace's usual sign off) -- "A good time will be had by all, OH BOY!"

Ace Henderson - 5018 Normandale Court, Edina, MN 55436 (952) 920-3948 acedon@pro-ns.net